



FACTS AND FIGURES

- Litter is more than just soda cans and plastic bags; it's lost ladders, furniture, wood, barbeque grills and more. Litter is anything that doesn't belong on Utah's roads.
- More than 25,000 accidents are caused on North America roads each year by litter, including both small items and large debris.
- There are more than 12,000 incidents of lost cargo reported annually in the Wasatch Front alone. These incidents often result in accidents that cause serious damage, injuries and even fatalities.
- Motorists are required by Utah law to properly secure items in their vehicle. Utah recently passed legislation that increases fines up to \$500 for lost debris and up to \$250 for (deliberate) littering.
- In a statewide survey conducted by Dan Jones & Associates in 2008, nearly 80 percent of Utahns have been confronted with objects that have been lost on the road, and more than 45 percent of Utahns have experienced damage to their automobile because of lost debris from other vehicles.
- In a poll conducted by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety (2002), more than 90 percent of respondents indicated they consider vehicle-related road debris (VRRD) to be a somewhat serious or very serious road safety problem.
- Recent research has found the nature of litter on the highway has shifted in the last 20 years from smaller deliberately discarded items such as fast food wrappers and soda cans to larger unintentionally lost items such as furniture, ladders and appliances. ("Highway Debris, Long an Eyesore, Grows as a Hazard, *New York Times*, May 2007)
- Cleaning up litter and debris on Utah's highways costs taxpayers more than \$2 million each year.
- In 2006, UDOT collected about 45,000 cubic yards of litter. That's enough litter to cover a football field 45-feet deep.
- About 8,000 truckloads (one-ton size) of litter are hauled to landfills in Utah annually.
- More information is available online at LitterHurts.Utah.Gov.